

August 16, 2022

Good Morning All,

~Parish Directory Registration Open - Picture dates are September 15th, 16th, 17th, & 19th - check your calendar and REGISTER now! [Online appointment scheduler \(instant-scheduling.com\)](https://instant-scheduling.com)

~Religious Education Classes begin Sunday, August 21st - REGISTER NOW! [2022-2023-RE-Enrollment-Packet.pdf \(siccs.net\)](https://siccs.net)

1. Today's Readings: [Tuesday of the Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time | USCCB](#)

2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: St. Stephen the Great devoted much of his reign to the promotion of the Christian faith. He gave his patronage to Church leaders, helped build churches, and was a proponent of the rights of the Holy See. His crown and regalia became beloved symbols of the Hungarian nation, and Stephen was venerated as the ideal Christian king. He became the patron saint of Hungary.

As we read about St. Stephen today, let us pray:

Lord, give us National and community leaders who will act justly, love mercy and lead lives of personal integrity. Source: A Year with the Saints by Paul Thigpen—this book can be found in the back of church for use during your quiet time in church)

3. Quotes of the Day: St. Stephen of Hungary

~“Be humble in this life, that God may raise you up in the next. Be truly moderate and do not punish or condemn anyone immoderately. Be gentle, so that you may never oppose justice. Be honorable, so that you may never voluntarily bring disgrace upon anyone. Be chaste, so that you may avoid all the foulness of lust like the pangs of death.”

~Last words of St. Stephen of Hungary "To thee, O Queen of Heaven, and to thy guardianship, I commend the Holy Church, all the Bishops and Clergy, and the whole kingdom, its rulers and inhabitants, but before all, I commend my soul to thy care."

St. Stephen of Hungary, Pray for Us!

St. Joseph, Pray for Us!

--

Linda McCormick
St. Joseph Catholic Church & School
1200 Cornelia Road
Anderson, SC 29621

Phone: (864) 225-5341, ext. 102

Fax: (864) 225-6432



Stephen I, also known as **King Saint Stephen**, was the last Grand Prince of the Hungarians between 997 and 1000 or 1001, and the first King of Hungary from 1000 or 1001, until his death in 1038. The year of his birth is uncertain, but many details of his life suggest that he was born in, or after, 975, in Esztergom. He was given the pagan name Vajk at birth, but the date of his baptism is unknown. He was the only son of Grand Prince Géza and his wife, Sarolt, who was descended from a prominent family of *gyulas*.

Although both of his parents were baptized, Stephen was the first member of his family to become a devout Christian. He married Gisela of Bavaria, a scion of the imperial Ottonian dynasty.

After succeeding his father in 997, Stephen had to fight for the throne against his relative, Koppány, who was supported by large numbers of pagan warriors. He defeated Koppány with the assistance of foreign knights including Vecelin, Hont and Pázmány, and native lords. He was crowned on 25 December 1000 or 1 January 1001 with a crown sent by Pope Sylvester II. In a series of wars against semi-independent tribes and chieftains—including the Black Hungarians and his uncle, Gyula the Younger—he unified the Carpathian Basin. He protected the independence of his kingdom by forcing the invading troops of Conrad II, Holy Roman Emperor, to withdraw from Hungary in 1030.

Stephen established at least one archbishopric, six bishoprics and three Benedictine monasteries, leading the Church in Hungary to develop independently from the archbishops of the Holy Roman Empire. He encouraged the spread of Christianity by meting out severe punishments for ignoring Christian customs. His

system of local administration was based on counties organized around fortresses and administered by royal officials. Hungary enjoyed a lasting period of peace during his reign and became a preferred route for pilgrims and merchants traveling between Western Europe, the Holy Land and Constantinople.

He survived all of his children, dying on 15 August 1038 aged 62 or 63. He was buried in his new basilica, built in Székesfehérvár and dedicated to the Holy Virgin. His death was followed by civil wars which lasted for decades. He was canonized by Pope Gregory VII, together with his son, Emeric, and Bishop Gerard of Csanád, in 1083. Stephen is a popular saint in Hungary and neighboring territories. In Hungary, his feast day (celebrated on 20 August) is also a public holiday commemorating the foundation of the state, known as State Foundation Day.

Source: catholic.org

A Letter by St. Stephen of Hungary to His Son

My dearest son, if you want to be worthy of the Royal crown, I advise you, I counsel you, I urge you above all things to keep the Catholic and apostolic faith with such diligent care that you'll serve as an example for everyone who God has placed under you, and so that all the clergy will justly call you a man who truly lives his Christian faith.

My beloved son, the joy of my heart, the hope of your posterity, I entreat you – I command you: always and in everything, made strong by your devotion to me, don't show favor only to family and kinsman, or to the most prominent people, whether leaders or the wealthy or neighbors or countrymen. Instead, be gracious also to foreigners and to everyone who comes to you for help. If you fulfill your duty in this manner, you'll attain the highest state of happiness.

Show mercy to all who are victims of violence. Keep always in your heart the example of the Lord, who said: "I desire mercy, and not sacrifice" (Matthew 9:13). Show patience to all, not only the powerful, but also the powerless.

Finally, stand strong so that prosperity won't exalt you too much or adversity pull you down. If you're humble in this life, God will lift you up in the next. You must be moderate; don't punish or condemn anyone excessively.

Show gentleness so you can avoid injustice. Be honorable so you'll never willingly bring disgrace upon anyone. Be so chaste that you'll flee the filth of lust as if it were the agony of death. All these virtues compose the royal crown. Without them no one is fit to be a ruler here on earth or citizen of the heavenly kingdom.

Source: [A Year with the Saints](#) by Paul Thigpen